

# 2016 General Assembly Preview

Presentation to Commissioner's Advisory  
Council on Health Disparity & Health Equity  
January 12, 2016

# Presentation Outline

- VDH and Secretary Bills
- Other Bills of Interest

# VDH Agency Bill - Comprehensive Opiate Harm Reduction

- Authorizes the State Health Commissioner to establish a syringe services program (SSP) to support comprehensive opiate harm reduction and prevent transmission of disease (HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C) during a public health emergency
- Creates exception to the Drug Control Act allowing VDH and/or affiliated organizations to distribute or dispense hypodermic needles and syringes as part of an SSP
- Amends Criminal Code by including “possession or distribution as part of participation in a syringe services program” as a legitimate use of an object that may otherwise be considered drug paraphernalia.

# Certificate of Public Need

Last year Secretary Hazel convened a COPN Work Group of key stakeholders as directed by Item 278D of the Appropriation Act. The Secretary will have a bill that implements several of the Workgroup's recommendations.

Several other COPN bills have been introduced:

- HB59 (Byron)
- HB193 (O'Bannon)
- HB348 (Byron)
- HB349 (Byron)
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- HB463 (Head)

# VDH Agency Bill - Environmental Health (Onsite Sewage Systems)

Directs State Health Commissioner to develop and present a plan to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2016, to transition direct onsite sewage system soil evaluation and design services to the private sector in a manner that is protective of public health and the environment.

# Some Other Bills Introduced So Far

HB451 - Commission on Economic Opportunity for Virginians in Aspiring and Diverse Communities (Miyares)

HB357/SB211 (Loupassi/Miller) - Public School/Physical Activity Requirement for Students in K-5

HB85 (Campbell [by request]) - Authorizes all counties to impose a local cigarette tax

SB19 (Stanley) - Telemedicine Pilot Program

# Some Other Bills Introduced So Far

HB338 (Pogge) - Prohibits Use of State Resources to Enforce Affordable Care Act

HJR65 (O'Bannon) - JCHC Study of Costs and Benefits of Expanded Role for Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

HJR56 (Ware) - Study of Biosolids and Industrial Waste

# Questions?

Joe Hilbert

VDH Director of Governmental and Regulatory Affairs

804-864-7006

[Joe.hilbert@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Joe.hilbert@vdh.virginia.gov)